

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8 and 10 remain in this application. Claims 1 – 6 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of this application in view of the amendments noted is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 – 10 were rejected as being indefinite under Section 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 7 has been amended to make the claim definite, to correct lack of antecedent bases, and to make the language of the claims more clear. Specifically, claim 7 has been amended in the following manner. The wording “to that both,” in line 7, has been amended to read “in which both” to make the language of the claim clear and definite. Applicant asserts that blade components and associated profilings are formed from composite material and truly manufactured simultaneously in a unified blank, from which blank the blades and their retention members are detached. Hence, “to” has been replaced with “in” instead of “from” as suggested by the examiner. Further, the wording “the profiling forming the retention members,” in lines 8 and 9, has been amended to read “profilings forming the retention members” to correct the lack of antecedent basis. Next, the limitation of claim 9 has been added to independent base claim 7. This reflects the fact that the simultaneous manufacturing of a plurality of blades with corresponding profilings in a unified blank is a novel and non-obvious element of the present invention. Finally, claim 10 has been amended such that “holes or similar” now reads “holes” to make the claim definite, and “arranged according to the blade-moving devices to be used” has been eliminated to correct the lack of antecedent basis. The limitation of claim 10 has been amended such that the holes are now “arranged for a blade-moving device to be used.” (Emphasis added). Applicant asserts that claims 7 and 10 as amended now conform to the statute and claim 8, depending from claim 7, also conforms to the statute.

Next, claims 7 - 9 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being obvious over Hopfe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,241,691) in view of Kirjava (U.S Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0052401) and Phelps (U.S. Patent No. 4,669,164). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. First, Hopfe does not give any hint as to how to manufacture the blade shown in Figure 3. A composite blade with retention members is already mentioned in the preamble of claim 7. But, according to the present invention, a unified blank including two or more blades and their corresponding profilings is manufactured from composite material and then the blades are separated from the blank. Such a manufacturing method is not taught or suggested in the cited art. Secondly, Kirjava should not be cited as prior art in this application because Kirjava became public after the present application was filed for the first time. The present application has a priority date of February 8, 2000. Kirjava did not become public until March 11, 2000, when it was first published. Thus, at the time of the present invention, it would not be obvious to use pultrusion, because Kirjava was not yet public. In addition, Kirjava does not disclose any kind of blade which would render the blade of the present invention anticipated or obvious. Finally, Phelps shows an impeller with blades that are totally different than the doctor blade according to the present invention. In addition, Phelps only teaches how to trim lengthwise pieces with a preferred length from an elongated piece or alternatively how to trim the length of the blade. There is no teaching or suggestion for manufacturing two or more blades simultaneously in a unified blank. Phelps only discloses trimming one piece from its two sides. For these reasons, neither Hopfe alone, nor any combination of Hopfe with Kirjava and/or Phelps, results in the present invention. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the 103(a) rejection based upon Hopfe in view of Kirjava and Phelps be withdrawn.

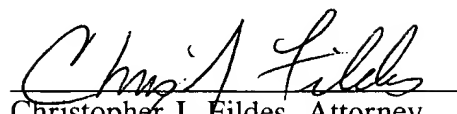
This amendment and request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to present the claims in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

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